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THE CITY ORGANIZATION.

MEANS. EDITORS: Believing from an inspection of your admirable paper that you are a friend of free discussion and of the best interests of our city, I take the liberty to invade the attention of your readers on a subject that vitally concerns quite a number of our patrons.

My theme is "the City Council."

Usually such bodies legislate for the public good, and aim to carry the public wishes. Strictly speaking their functions are very limited, and they possess but a small area of jurisdiction, especially in a corporation of the size of Salina. In the first place there is no earthly necessity for a city organization. By their double dealing, their illegal assumption of power, crippling the resources and dwarfing the prosperity of the city, their many deeds of oppression and other acts of willful extravagance, and unpardonable folly, they overwhelmingly demonstrate that the worst enemy this young city of West has to contend with is the overbearing City Council. They order an onslaught on dogs; and many valuable animals, the property of our farmers, were unceremoniously shot in our streets without properly notifying the owners thereof and the public of their determination. Now, if a dog only wears a brass collar, he passes muster, being secure from hydropathy. Many persons from the country trading here were placed under arrest, taken before his majesty, the Lord Mayor, and mulcted to the tune of ten or fifteen dollars for leaving their teams unattended, when at the same time there was scarcely one decent hitching post in the city; after which they have a number of posts placed on one or two streets at the public expense evidently thinking this would cure the injury already inflicted. They required all bringing in and selling a few sticks of wood to pay a city measurer his fees, or return home minus ten or fifteen dollars. Under this last head several acts of gross oppression were perpetrated until the edict was repealed. A couple of streets are graded at the expense of the taxpayers. This of course resulted from a great public necessity—the people's money must be wasted in some manner. At one meeting they grant a billiard and saloon license, the money is tendered by the party applying for the same and refused; subsequently the grant is withdrawn. To cap the climax, in defiance of all precedent, and in opposition to the wishes of the lot owners, they order a twelve foot side walk on a considerable portion of Santa Fe Avenue, without any petition first being presented. Subsequently a remonstrance couched in proper language and signed by over three-fourths of the resident property owners requesting a reduction of the width to eight feet was presented at their last meeting. Instead of promptly acquiescing and granting the prayer of the remonstrance, they unceremoniously lay it on the table and kick it out, without in the least considering its merits. No other city council in the Union ever treated a petition of this character so disrespectfully. Several owners of lots are unable to build the walk as required, but then the city will do it for them and charge two per cent. a month on the money as costs. Injunctions have been known to issue enjoining the perpetration of official outrages. Why not consult those most deeply interested and who have to foot the bills? Why force this thing through against the wishes of an overwhelming majority on the street. With a few repairs the walks are sufficient to meet the public wants for years, at which time we might use our native stone flagging and make a permanent walk. It has been computed that it would take fourteen car loads of lumber to build the walk (about 112,000 feet) with nails, stone, &c. As required the cost will be about six thousand dollars. Why take this amount out of the pockets of the taxpayers on this street and send it out of the country (as nothing but pine lumber will do). What great public necessity demands this sacrifice? None! unless additional fees for our worthy city Marshal, who now receives six hundred dollars besides all fees; and for doing what?

Gentlemen of the Council, you must change your course or you will materially injure the business and development of the fine young city of Salina. Why not abolish your army of cut worms, alias city officers, making the compensation proportionate to the work done. Call a special meeting and repeal this ordinance thereby showing that you carry out the wishes of the people. A refusal will show you to be unfit to fill your position as members of your august body and ought to determine on your part a unanimous resignation of the responsible positions you now so unworthily fill.

A TAX-PAYER.

FROM LINCOLN COUNTY.

LINCOLN COUNTY, KAN., May 27th, 1871.

MEANS EDITORS: Sirs, Having been requested by many individuals living at a distance to furnish some definite information concerning the rise and course of the Saline river, the character of the

country through which it flows, the advantages which a settlement in its valley will afford to new-comers, and regarding everything else in which emigrants are interested, we will, with your consent, employ the columns of your estimable paper as our means of intercourse with those who desire the information.

The Saline river takes its rise about seventy-five miles to the west of this point, flowing eastward through one of the most fertile valleys, which it has ever been our privilege to look upon. Every few miles the main stream is intersected by tributaries which come down from the high grounds on this side of the Saline valley, and along whose banks are found an abundance of timber for all ordinary purposes. Along the river itself, we find dense growths of cottonwood, elm, oak, ash, box elder, and many other kinds of forest trees, affording an ample supply of timber, which, with a little care manifested in keeping out fires, will increase every year. Throughout the entire length and breadth of this valley is found farming lands unsurpassed in the quality of its soil, by any region of the world, in which we have ever had the pleasure of traveling; and having had an experience of no small magnitude in that direction, we feel entirely competent to judge.

There is yet any amount of unoccupied lands along the Saline river and its tributaries, with but few timbered claims, of course; but what of that? Any man coming in to settle and make a permanent home can get all the house logs he will require by simply cutting them, and also all the young timber he will ever want to transplant. It is our view, based upon actual observation taken in the prairie country of Illinois that every man coming to this country can, with a little work in setting out timber, soon furnish himself with all the timber he will ever want, or his grand children after him; and we would earnestly recommend all to do so. Settlers coming to this section of Kansas can obtain all the information they require by calling upon Dr. H. Vernon, of Lincoln Center, who, although having recently located here, is rapidly acquiring all the information which is required by emigrants. Mr. George Green, who stands among the first settlers and leading men of Lincoln county, is also ready to advance the interest of all new comers. Mr. Volney Ball, who lives in the east end of Lincoln county, is also a reliable and perfectly trustworthy source of information. Others will be from time to time named as we come to know them.

As regards the county seat difficulty now raging here, we say to all, it need make no difference as an election will soon settle that, and an election will be held, and would have been ordered Wednesday last when the board of county commissioners met in special session, to consider petitions with names far more in number than required by law, had not commissioner Wilde declared that he had decided the question more than a week ago that this county never should hold an election for the removal or relocation of the county seat; and he, aided by a drunken counsel, broke up the meeting in dire confusion, by brute force.

We set it stated in the Lincoln County Gazette that both Abram and Lincoln Center claim the county seat. We beg the editors pardon for informing him that such is a very grave mistake. We do not claim to have the county seat but that we intend to provide we can get it fair, square and honorably.

In conclusion we will state that at a meeting of the leading citizens of the different precincts of Lincoln county, it was unanimously agreed to assemble at the town of Lincoln Center, near which is a beautiful spring surrounded by majestic forest fathers, for the purpose of a public celebration on July the fourth, 1871; and we trust that upon that occasion all party lines and distinctions will be obliterated and the same feeling of unity and friendship will prevail which laid the foundation of our mighty republic. We invite all to come prepared for a day of enjoyment and happiness. The programme will be announced in our next communication to your paper.

Yours truly,

INDEPENDENT.

LINCOLN COUNTY.

SALINA, KANSAS, May 27th, 1871.

EDITORS SALINE COUNTY JOURNAL: In your last issue I notice a letter from Lincoln Center in regard to that town. It is good. Of the men who compose the town company we have nothing to say. They may be good business men but have made quite a mistake in beginning a new town within one and one-half miles of the county seat of Lincoln county.

We have refrained from giving the public a history of the town sites now in contest. The people of Lincoln county at the last general election voted on three localities for a county seat. A majority of 41 votes of 180 cast gave what is now called the town of Abram the site. The land was bought and a good observed, a town company formed and chartered according

to law, a town laid off, plotted and filed with the Register of Deeds, shares sold, paid for, and drawn the 10th of May last, the shareholders receiving deeds as called for. This said town company has a good title and can give one to purchasers of lots when required. So far as the location is concerned there can be no better found, and it is pronounced the best site. The town has a good store building, the upper story used by the county officers. Other good buildings are under process of erection. The store, saw-mill, and other improvements in Lincoln Center about to be made, are what all neighborhoods and communities want.

However, it is not essential to the welfare of a community, its prosperity and influences for good, that home bitters and other kinds of bitters representing the properties of health, when they result to the contrary, should be sold. It is an article of merchandise and they have a right to sell it, but morally they have no right to sell and vend a poison that destroys the usefulness of man—that which excites his animal passions and places him too often below the condition of the brute. To deal or traffic in an article that debases the moral and intelligent influence of a community is an irreparable wrong. To build up a town in the midst of an intelligent community with such influences is an insult that should not be overlooked, I care not who they may be. Legally they have the right to deal in all articles of merchandise. But where men will deal or indulge in the use of such paltry stuff; men who pretend to set not only a moral but a christian example men who should, taking their standing in the community and churches as they do, be a shining light men who tamper with the passions of men, and by indulgence in such bitters make them unfit for the discharge of business duties; who peddle it out to sway the influence of men whom they desire to use or convert to their own purposes—such men deserve the marks of Cain, be they who they may. When men step, as it were, from the minister's stand or an elder's position, or an assumed and marked position in the church, they betray a sacred trust, put to shame their respective positions and deserve the condemnation of an intelligent community.

On the first Monday in April last a petition was presented to the county commissioners of Lincoln county praying said board to call an election to permanently locate the county seat, and at their earliest convenience. The petition contained 166 or 170 names, 7 or 8 non-residents, quite a number only residents from 10 to 30 days. The petition called or set forth no place to locate the county seat and did not consider that the county seat was permanently located. It was impossible for the board to act on said petition. Virtually it deserved no notice, but the board acted very generously in laying the petition over until the July term for consideration. In the meantime, the friends of both town sites were actively engaged in work. The Abram town committee obtained 215 names of bona fide residents of the county, against the petitioners and the removal of the county seat. The friends of Lincoln Center, by various means and resorts, induced the commissioners to have a called meeting to reconsider their action in said petition. We could not reflect upon the action of the board when they so openly exposed the fraud practiced upon them by men whom we supposed had some moral and christian integrity. But selfish interest had no doubt consumed it, if they possessed any. On the 25th inst., the day set, both parties appeared on the field, some with legal lore and some with one-half dozen bottles of home bitters, which latter they hoped to make more effective in carrying their purposes. We judge this from the masses in which it was used. Let the public place what construction they please upon it. There was quite a display of legal talent by the different attorneys. The dodge of the friends of Lincoln Center was foiled. They attempted to set up claims that never existed. They tried hard to show that the commissioners should not upon the petitions. But when time is required to consider an action and it is laid over and made a matter of record, they can not go behind their record consistently or legally. If adjoined actions and causes were thus allowed to be called up at any time to suit the whims of a faction, the public would have no security in any of our courts. To establish such a precedent would be a dangerous thing. Any faction or party, when they desired, could call a court or board when they chose. In the above case it was very apparent to every one that the object sought was to run the thing through with some kind of a bluff game, and have it their own way, or impose upon the supposed ignorance of the county commissioners. They were met on the square at every point, and their base transactions exposed to the public. The board could take no action upon the petition until their meeting in July next, which was so ordered and made a mat-

ter of record. We would ask the taxpayers of Lincoln county why move your county seat one and a half miles to gratify a faction who may come into your county at a late day, take claims, and set on foot a project to ruin the welfare and prosperity of your county? If you move it at all, put it in the geographical center of your county, if it be in a mud hole. But the county seat was permanently located by a majority of legal votes. There may be men of some prominence engaged in this enterprise who have done much for the prosperity and welfare of your county, but are possessed of like passions as other men, who may be carried away by bad influences, or to gratify a supposed wrong or injury. They will tamper with your just rights to gratify the whims of a faction, involve your county in debt—as it were to put a tax title upon every quarter section of land in your county. Consider well what you do. It will cost you thousands of dollars to remove your county seat. Are you willing to pay the county and all individuals in interest \$5,000 or \$10,000 to gratify a faction that may set up a claim for a county seat which can not give a title to its land, until they can have 100 inhabitants. Town sites sometimes have an imaginary title but go to the records and see that figures and records will not lie. If the friends of Yanger or Lincoln center had taken the proper course they might have accomplished something. Their blow that they would compel the commissioners to respect their petition, or "mandamus" as it was all a farce. The commissioners had no petition to respect. They will and are bound to respect petitions legally placed before them. The whole thing was a grave imposition not only upon the commissioners but upon their constituents. No man taking an impartial view of the case as it now stands will hesitate a moment to condemn the outrage attempted upon the citizens of Lincoln county. They last fall decided where their county seat should be, by a compromise of all parties, or at least the most influential ones, and now we find some of those men engaged in this enterprise; and for what? Simply to cut off their nose to spite their face (an old trite saying, quite applicable in this case). They aid and assist others to engender strife, create litigations and involve never-ending lawsuits, whereby there is hope to build up a trade, enhance the value of a few claims and build up a legal practice at the expense of tax payers of your county. Your sister counties feel the effects of that practice to-day. Will you not look to your own interests, put down or remove all cause for any faction to foster dissensions in your midst? It belongs to you to do it, and let it be done at once before your prosperity is blighted. You have within you the elements of a rich and prosperous county. Your county is rapidly filling up with intelligent immigration. Foster and cultivate dissensions among yourselves and you will lose your prestige. The public will soon know you and other counties will get what you should have. You can have one prosperous town or you can have two or three one-horse concerns. Lay aside local difficulties and animosities throw them into oblivion, unite your influences for the good and for public welfare. Be men enough to sacrifice private or supposed injuries for the prosperity of your county, be a law-abiding people. Use your means in building up school-houses and churches, your influence for the improvement of society. Remember, you older settlers, the trials and scenes you have passed through; your valleys and fields made desolate by the murderous savages; your families made destitute, murdered and carried off victims of many horrid cruelties worse than death; and I trust you will not be ungrateful to those who were your friends in that hour of need, though we were not with you but did what we could to enable you to keep a bold front. We did nothing but our duty—would that we could have done more. I have tried to be a friend to your valley and county, and would not have called your attention to this matter but have been charged with the fact that I came into your midst to create factions and dissensions. But I will state that in every instance my acts and motives have been to the contrary. I leave it with every honest citizen to hear me out in my assertions and if I have misrepresented anything, I stand corrected. Another word to old settlers. Encourage every settler you can to come among you; respect every one, let him be old or new, so he may be a good American citizen. Every man has equal rights, which demand respect, but when men come among you to encourage local difficulties, discountenance at once such motives, and they will soon drop into good moral habits and perhaps make respectable citizens. New settlers should not take positive stand points until they carefully weigh all the points. Men often jump to conclusions before they have sufficient evidence of facts. We do not charge you with an intentional wrong but you may direct and encourage issues

without thinking of the results. Remember your commissioners have and hold sacred trust for you, and be generous enough to give them time for due consideration. If you desire to remove your county seat, get your petitions up for that purpose, and see that no attempted fraud is practiced. Be sure you are right and then go ahead. I advise justice done. Consider if it is expedient, if it is economy, if it will benefit your general interests and prosperity. If it will be better to let it remain where it is and have a fine location that will command respect of capital and business men, or remove it one and one-half miles or five miles to low and wet ground, where no man of enterprise or means could be induced to settle, or the other to gratify the whims of a faction, in either case at the expense of from \$5,000 to \$10,000. Other trading posts are contemplated on your western borders and then your county seat is all right. In a few years the iron horse will tread your valleys. You have too fine a valley too lay out of doors long with out commerce seeking an avenue through your midst.

However, it all belongs to your action, as it were, to-day. Encourage enterprise and capital to come to you. Lay the foundation well based upon peace and prosperity, cultivate schools and a healthy public spirit. Continue your efforts and influence for good, and you will have a rich and prosperous county; one that will be an honor to your State, and fast growing commonwealth. Consider my motives only for your good, is my excuse for the suggestions this male, X. Y. Z.

A YEAR'S ANSWER.

It was sunset hour. The magnificent orb of day now glided slowly down the western sky into the fleecy emerald clouds bordering them with tassels of gold and prismatic hues, and sheeting the mountain crests with yellow crimson. On through the evening air came merry singing zephyrs, scattering a thousand perfumes, and I leaning across the lakes the gossamer mists, formed by a picturesque marsh near the edge of a grassy plain.

It was upon this beautiful panorama of nature that Wilmont Evans gazed. He was a man of profession, and for a moment the fair being by his side was "forgotten, so intent was he.

Presently a bright, though sad smile lit up his features, and he turned to his companion, saying:

"Ah, Maud, what would I not give to depict such a scene on canvas. No one but a painter can conceive its beauties fully. No one but a painter knows of the many anxious days and sleepless nights required to portray its charms."

"Oh, yes, Wilmont," the lady returned, "I am fully aware that many severe trials must be undergone before fame is reached; but when your troubles are at an end do you not feel fully recompensed for your labor? Do not be discouraged, Wilmont; persevere in your attempts, and fortune must soon smile on your endeavors."

While yet speaking the young lady started toward the lake, and was followed by Wilmont, who, unlocking a little boat on the shore, sprang into it, and then led Maud to a seat.

Soon the sails filled and the boat silently dashed through the waters, until it reached a large farmhouse on the opposite bank.

While Maud and Wilmont are walking up the lawn let us go back a little into their histories.

Wilmont Evans was the son of a poor carpenter; and from his earliest infancy was inured to hard labor. He received very little education; yet his superior talents enabled him to study even difficult works in private. It was not until long after he had left the paternal roof that he entered college; and there, by dint of severe application, succeeded in finishing his course in three years.

His benefactor, who had sent him to college, afterward procured him a place in the studio of an eminent artist.

Day by day Wilmont rose higher in his profession, and at the present time was considered, in the parlance of the world, as one worthy of patronage.

Such was Wilmont Evans. His betrothed, a beautiful, blue eyed blonde, was the only daughter of a wealthy Philadelphia, who had come to seek recreation in the quietude of the country.

From the very first moment that Wilmont beheld Maud Ewing he was in love. Her open, childish and natural manner charmed him, and in defiance of the great abyss of wealth that yawned between, he told the "old story," and was accepted.

As yet, Maud's father knew nothing of the existing engagement. Maud left the news to be carried by Wilmont, and Wilmont felt a reluctance to inform Mr. Ewing. Something told him that Mr. Ewing would never consent to a match so unequal in a pecuniary point of view. Then Wilmont determined to go into the world and reap the harvest that would secure his bride. He told his intentions to Maud and she sanctioned them. The object had now become fixed in Wilmont's head, and nothing could turn him from his course.

One bright morning he left the large farmhouse and the farewells of the many city visitors. For a few days after his departure, the place seemed ever so lonely, but soon the same hilarity of spirits returned, and even Maud was gay. As for the gentlemen, they appeared to be overjoyed when Wilmont was gone. Harry Adams, especially, was delighted with the idea, for now he could cultivate Miss Ewing's society much more.

Parties, parties, boat-rides, all that tended to promote pleasure, was introduced; and on these occasions, Harry Adams was Maud's inevitable escort.

The other ladies often smiled archly when the attachment of Adams to Maud was the subject of conversation; but in secret, regretted the loss of their favorite.

"Harry," said one of the gentlemen who were standing under the elm tree shade after dinner on a lovely day, "Harry! I say, do forget Miss Ewing this afternoon, and enjoy a boat-ride with us." It was Frank Palmer that spoke a small sized man with a grizzly moustache and no great favorite, either, with the lady just mentioned by him, or with any other lady of the party.

"Perhaps I may, Palmer," said Harry; "but you must first promise that the wine and sandwiches will be plenty; for I do not relish the idea of becoming hungry or thirsty on the lake. By the way, could we not invite some of the ladies?"

"No, we had better not. Let us keep this affair to ourselves," remarked one of the gentlemen.

They did keep it to themselves, for it was not until the ladies beheld the boat far out on the lake that they knew the whereabouts of their gallants.

And what a scene that boat offered when the desired shore was reached. Sandwiches, glasses and bottles, lay promiscuously around, while here and there could be seen a boot, paper collar, or a fragment of hat. Evidently a struggle had transpired. Harry Adams is resting on the grassy bank; he does not look injured. Ah! but there comes Palmer. The gentlemen are decidedly ill-looking. If he had been through a mill with one of our noted pugilists he not could appear worse. He comes forward to Adams, and in a low voice says:

"Harry, I am sorry, extremely sorry, that this unpleasant encounter has come between us. However, let it be forgotten; let us think no more of our past quarrel. That I have been in the wrong, I admit; what more can a gentleman do?"

"I accept your apology, Palmer," returned Harry, "I was also to blame for my hastiness. Here is my hand."

The two friends then went to the boat, to drown their sorrows in the last bottle of champagne.

It seems that during the sail a discussion arose as to whom in the company was looked upon most favorably by Maud Ewing.

The division was given in favor of Adams, but Palmer broke forth, saying: "Harry, be not flattered, you have not yet thought of Wilmont Evans, who I think is Maud's promised husband."

Then they began, and from slight remarks gathered a full-blown quarrel.

If Harry Adams had been a closed shop, he would have detected in Maud's eyes, during his apology, a touch of irony. Palmer was not so easily vanquished by an opponent as he failing to gain his point by physical means, he determined to adopt another course. His apology was the beginning, and he was satisfied with the beginning.

Adams had no reason to fear Palmer's influence. He knew that the gentleman was no general favorite; thus he trusted in his own situation.

"Talk on from that little across grow," said the ad